

Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office of the Governor

Whereas, This year we celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Fitzgerald Act. This federal law was the first national effort to develop a comprehensive system of apprenticeship in the United States, which protects the welfare of apprentices by establishing national standards of apprenticeship training and assuring that employers had the support to develop a competitive workforce; and,

Whereas, South Dakota currently has more than 1,000 registered apprentices and over 200 employer sponsors; and,

Whereas, The state of South Dakota recognizes the strength and leadership which results from these many sponsors of registered apprenticeship programs; and,

Whereas, The apprenticeship sponsors throughout the state have offered solid educational opportunities through on-the-job learning and related technical and theoretical instruction, which serves to enhance the economic vitality of our state by providing a well educated, highly skilled workforce; and,

Whereas, The registered apprentices demonstrate diligence, perseverance, and teamwork each day as they become more knowledgeable, capable, and credentialed members of the workforce; and,

Whereas, The state of South Dakota recognizes that the 21st century economy demands a workforce with postsecondary education, credentials, and the ability to respond to changing economic and business needs; and,

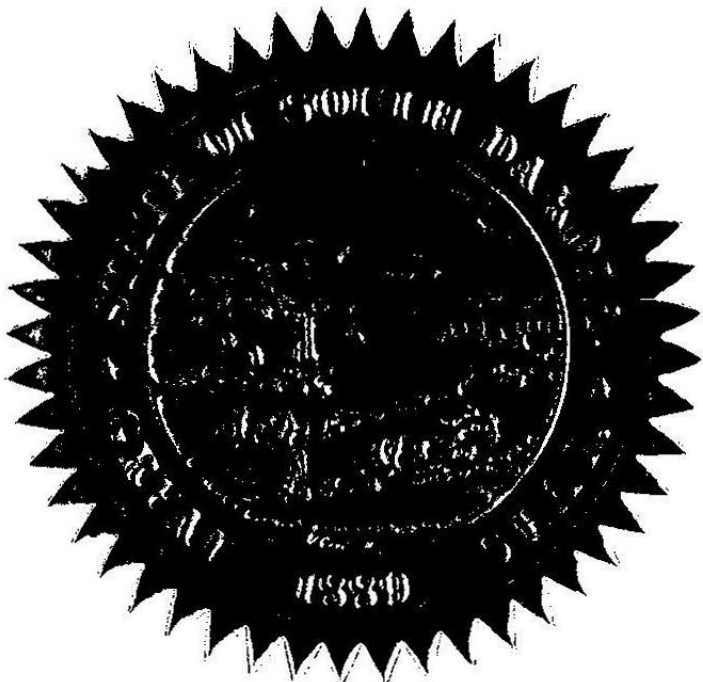
Whereas, Registered apprenticeship is an important component of talent development strategies in many high demand and high growth sectors and is recognized as a critical postsecondary education, training, and employment option; and,

Whereas, Registered apprenticeship programs enhance economic vitality and lead to a stronger economic environment by producing highly skilled and competitive workers who have versatile skills and portable credentials that are recognized nationally and often globally:


Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim May 2008 as

APPRENTICESHIP APPRECIATION AND AWARENESS MONTH

in South Dakota.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-seventh Day of March in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Eight.


M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:


Chris Nelson, Secretary of State